

STAT

Decree on Diphtheria Inoculation

Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik,
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DIRECTIVEON THE EXECUTION OF A PROGRAM OF IMMUNIZINGINJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIAOF 1 APRIL 1952

~~From: Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik [Legal Gazette~~
~~of the German Democratic Republic], No. 46, 18 April 1952,~~
~~Berlin, Pages 297-298.~~

Pursuant to Article 1, Paragraph 1 of the Directive of 1
June 1949 on the ^{Administering} ~~Execution~~ of Immunizing Injections (Zentralver-
^(Central Legal Gazette) ~~ordnungsblatt I, page 446~~) the following directive concerning
injections is promulgated:

ARTICLE 1

Obligatory ~~immunizing injections against~~ ^{injections} diphtheria are to
be carried out in the entire area of the German Democratic Republic
during the period from 1 April 1952 through 31 October 1952.

ARTICLE 2

(1) ^{Injections} ~~Injections~~ are obligatory for all children and adoles-
cents born in the years 1937/38, 1945/46 and 1950/51, except insofar
as such children and adolescents have already been given immunizing
~~injections against diphtheria during the years 1950 to 1952.~~

(2) Children and adolescents who cannot be given injections
without danger to their lives or health are not subject to the obli-
gation to receive injection so long as such condition continues.

(3) The following are excused from injection:

- (a) Children and adolescents who bring proof that they have had diphtheria during the years 1950 to 1952;
- (b) Children and adolescents suffering from acute infectious diseases or who are convalescing from such diseases;
- (c) Children and adolescents who on the day scheduled for injection are suffering visibly from colds (severe coughing, running nose);
- (d) Persons with active tuberculosis;
- (e) Persons with visible symptoms of kidney disturbances;
- (f) Persons with visible symptoms of heart and circulation disorders;
- (g) Children and adolescents with boils or other severe skin disorders (other than psoriasis);
- (h) Persons with disorders of an allergic nature.

(4) The doctor in charge of injections shall decide regarding excuses from injection and shall execute a medical certificate supporting such excuses.

ARTICLE 3

(1) The immunizing injections against diphtheria will be carried out with diphtheria toxoid serum of the People's-Owned Enterprise Dessau Serum Works or with diphtheria protective serum "Dresden" produced by the ~~Sachsen Serum Works in Dresden.~~

(2) The injections are to be given in the following doses and at the following intervals:

- (a) Small children (immunized for first time) receive two subcutaneous injections of 0.5 cubic centimeters each administered

(b) Children entering or leaving school (who have been immunized before) receive a single subcutaneous injection of 0.3 cubic centimeters in the first case and 0.2 cubic centimeters in the second.

(c) In case children entering or leaving school have not previously been immunized against diphtheria, they are to receive two subcutaneous injections of 0.3 cubic centimeters each in the first case or 0.2 cubic centimeters each in the second case, administered four weeks apart.

(3) Should in exceptional cases the first injection produce a strong reaction, the second injection is to be omitted.

ARTICLE 4

(1) In carrying out the immunizing injections, all precautionary measures are to be observed.

(2) Syringes and hypodermic needles are to be sterilized by boiling for one-half hour in water to which has been added 2 percent soda and 0.35 percent formalin. Before injections, air is to be removed from the syringes (pumping through). A freshly sterilized needle must be used for each child; this needle may be applied to the syringe only with tweezers (not with the hand).

(3) The doctor administering the injections and his assistants are required to clean their hands for five minutes in warm water with soap and brush and then to wash them for five minutes in a suitable disinfectant before starting the injections.

(4) The place of inoculation on the skin is to be rubbed with cotton or cellulose moistened with a skin disinfectant (alcohol

or spirits). Fresh cotton or cellulose is to be used for each person who has been inoculated.

(5) Serum is to be kept in a cool place (temperature $+4^{\circ}$ centigrade if possible). Before use the serum is to be shaken vigorously and withdrawn immediately thereafter. The contents of bottles which have been opened is to be used without delay.

ARTICLE 5

The Stadtkreise and Landkreise are required to provide the financial means necessary to carry out the immunization program.

ARTICLE 6

Attention is drawn to the requirement for compliance with the provisions of the Directive of 1 June 1949 on the Execution of Immunizing Injections (Zentralverordnungsblatt, page 446) and of the First Implementing Instruction of 4 July 1949 to the Directive on the Execution of Immunizing Injections (Zentralverordnungsblatt, page 539).

ARTICLE 7

This directive becomes effective on 1 April 1952

Berlin, 1 April 1952

Ministry for Health

by direction: J. Matern

State Secretary